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# **Circular and Square Concrete Columns Externally Confined by CFRP Composite: Experimental Investigation and Effective Strength Models**

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## **1. Introduction**

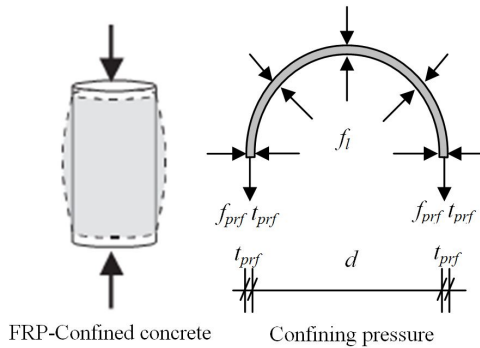
The use of fiber reinforced polymers (FRP) jackets as an external mean to strengthen existing RC columns has emerged in recent years with very promising results [1-13], among others. Several studies on the performance of FRP wrapped columns have been conducted, using both experimental and analytical approaches. Such strengthening technique has proved to be very effective in enhancing their ductility and axial load capacity. However, the majority of such studies have focused on the performance of columns of circular cross section. The data available for columns of square or rectangular cross sections have increased over recent years but are still limited. This field remains in its developmental stages and more testing and analysis are needed to explore its capabilities, limitations, and design applicability. This study deals with a series of tests on circular and square plain concrete (PC) and reinforced concrete (RC) columns strengthened with carbon fiber reinforced polymer (CFRP) sheets. According to the obtained test results, FRP-confined specimens' failure occurs before the FRP reached their ultimate strain capacities. So the failure occurs prematurely and the circumferential failure strain was lower than the ultimate strain obtained from standard tensile testing of the FRP composite. In existing models for FRP-confined concrete, it is commonly assumed that the FRP ruptures when the hoop stress in the FRP jacket reaches its tensile strength from either flat coupon tests which is herein referred to as the FRP material tensile strength. This phenomenon considerably affects the accuracy of the existing models for FRP-confined concrete. On the basis of the effective lateral confining pressure of composite jacket and the effective circumferential FRP failure strain a new equations were proposed to predict the strength of FRP-confined concrete and corresponding strain for each of the cross section geometry used, circular and square. The predictions of the proposed equations are

shown to agree well with test data. The specimen notations are as follows. The first letter refers to section shape: C for circular and S for square. The next two letters indicate the type of concrete: PC for plain concrete and RC for reinforced concrete, followed by the concrete mixture: I for normal strength (26 MPa), II for medium strength (50 MPa) and III for high strength (62 MPa). The last letters specifies the number of CFRP layers (0L, 1L and 3L), followed by the number of specimen.

## 2. Observed Behaviour of FRP Confined Concrete

### 2.1. FRP-Confined Concrete in Circular Columns

The confinement action exerted by the FRP on the concrete core is of the passive type, that is, it arises as a result of the lateral expansion of concrete under axial load. As the axial stress increases, the corresponding lateral strain increases and the confining device develops a tensile hoop stress balanced by a uniform radial pressure which reacts against the concrete lateral expansion [14,15]. When an FRP confined cylinder is subject to axial compression, the concrete expands laterally and this expansion is restrained by the FRP. The confining action of the FRP composite for circular concrete columns is shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1.** Confinement action of FRP jacket in circular sections

For circular columns, the concrete is subject to uniform confinement, and the maximum confining pressure provided by FRP composite is related to the amount and strength of FRP and the diameter of the confined concrete core. The maximum value of the confinement pressure that the FRP can exert is attained when the circumferential strain in the FRP reaches its ultimate strain and the fibers rupture leading to brittle failure of the cylinder. This confining pressure is given by:

$$f_l = \frac{2t_{frp}E_{frp}\epsilon_{fu}}{d} = \frac{2t_{frp}f_{frp}}{d} = \frac{\rho_{frp}f_{frp}}{2} \quad (1)$$

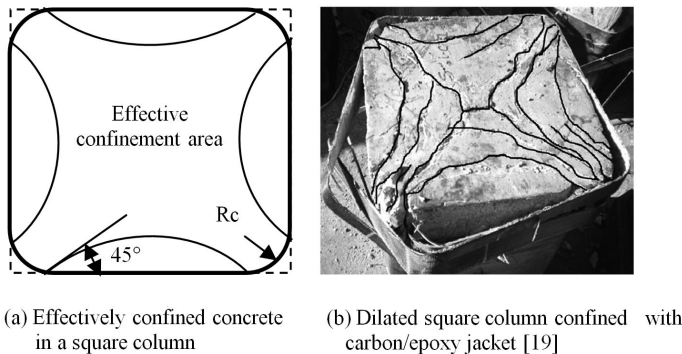
Where  $f_l$  is the lateral confining pressure,  $E_{frp}$  is the elastic modulus of the FRP composite,  $\varepsilon_{fu}$  is the ultimate FRP tensile strain,  $f_{frp}$  is the ultimate tensile strength of the FRP composite,  $t_{frp}$  is the total thickness of the FRP,  $d$  is the diameter of the concrete cylinder, and  $\rho_{frp}$  is the FRP volumetric ratio given by the following equation for fully wrapped circular cross section:

$$\rho_{frp} = \frac{\pi d t_{frp}}{\pi d^2 / 4} = \frac{4 t_{frp}}{d} \quad (2)$$

## 2.2. FRP-Confined Concrete in Square Columns

A square column with rounded corners is shown in Figure 2. To improve the effectiveness of FRP confinement, corner rounding is generally recommended. Due to the presence of internal steel reinforcement, the corner radius  $R_c$  is generally limited to small values. Existing studies on steel confined concrete [16-18] have led to the simple proposition that the concrete in a square section is confined by the transverse reinforcement through arching actions, and only the concrete contained by the four second-degree parabolas as shown in Figure 2a is fully confined while the confinement to the rest is negligible. These parabolas intersect the edges at  $45^\circ$ . While there are differences between steel and FRP in providing confinement, the observation that only part of the section is well confined is obviously also valid in the case of FRP confinement. Youssef et al. (2007) [19] showed that confining square concrete members with FRP materials tends to produce confining stress concentrated around the corners of such members, as shown in Figure 2b. The reduced effectiveness of an FRP jacket for a square section than for a circular section has been confirmed by experimental results [2,20]. Despite this reduced effectiveness, an FRP-confined square concrete column generally also fails by FRP rupture [9,20]. In Equation (1),  $d$  is replaced by the diagonal length of the square section. For a square section with rounded corners,  $d$  can be written as:

$$d = \sqrt{2}b - 2R_c(\sqrt{2} - 1) \quad (3)$$



**Figure 2.** Confinement action of FRP composite in square sections

### 3. Different Behaviour Between Steel and FRP Composite

It is well known that concrete expands laterally before failure. If the lateral expansion is prevented, a substantial concrete strength and deformation enhancements may be gained. Thus, the expected enhancement in the axial load capacity of the columns wrapped with FRP may be due to two factors; first: the confinement effect of the externally bonded transverse fibers, and second: the direct contribution of longitudinally aligned fibers. Different behaviour between steel and FRP composite was observed due to the stress-strain relationship of each material shown in Figure 3. Fiber-reinforced polymer is linear elastic up to final brittle rupture when subject to tension while steel has an elastic-plastic region [21]. This is a very important property in terms of structural use of FRP composite. A part from illustrating typical strength differences between these materials, these curves give a clear contrast between the brittle behaviour of FRP composite and the ductile behaviour of steel. Steel confinement is based on the same mechanics of FRP. However, a fundamental difference is due to the stress-strain behaviour of steel, which after the initial linearly elastic phase displays the yielding plateau. Therefore, after reaching the maximum value corresponding to the yielding stress, the confinement pressure remains constant (neglecting strain hardening).

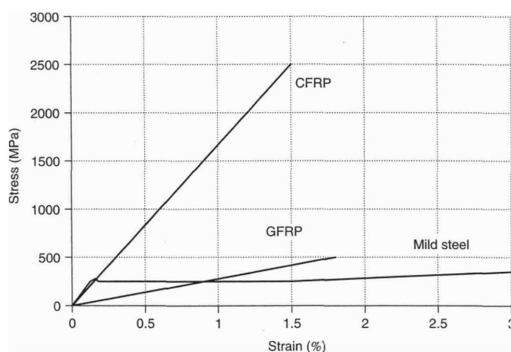


Figure 3. Typical FRP and mild-steel stress-strain curves [21]

## 4. Experimental Program

### 4.1. Materials Properties

*Concrete mixtures* : Three concrete mixtures were used to achieve the desired range of unconfined concrete strength (26, 50 and 62 MPa), as shown in Table 1. Mixtures were prepared in the laboratory using a mechanical mixer and were used to cast the concrete specimens which were wrapped with CFRP sheets after drying.

*CFRP composites* : The carbon-fiber fabric used in this study were the SikaWrap-230C/45 product, a unidirectional wrap. The resin system that was used to bond the carbon fabrics over the specimens in this work was the epoxy resin made of two-parts, resin and hardener. The mixing ratio of the two components by weight was 4:1. SikaWrap-230C/45 was field laminated using Sikadur-330 epoxy to form a carbon fiber reinforced polymer wrap (CFRP) used to strengthen the concrete specimens. The mechanical properties, including the modulus and the tensile strength of the CFRP composite, were obtained through tensile testing of flat coupons. The tensile tests were conducted essentially following the NF EN ISO 527-(1, 2 and 5) recommendations. The tensile specimen configuration is represented in Figure 3a. All of the tests coupons were allowed to cure in the laboratory environment for at least 7 days. Prior to the testing, aluminum plates were glued to the ends of the coupons to avoid premature failure of the coupon ends, which were clamped in the jaws of the testing machine. The tests were carried out under displacement control at a rate of 1mm/min. The longitudinal strains were measured using strain gages at mid-length of the test coupon. The load and strain readings were taken using a data logging system and were stored in a computer. Main mechanical properties obtained from the average values of the tested coupons are summarized below:

- Thickness (per ply) : 1 mm
- Modulus  $E_{frp}$  : 34 GPa
- Tensile strength  $f_{frp}$  : 450 MPa
- Ultimate strain  $\varepsilon_{fu}$  : 14 ‰

Note that the tensile strength was defined based on the cross-sectional area of the coupons, while the elastic modulus was calculated from the stress-strain response.

#### 4.2. Fabrication of Test Specimens

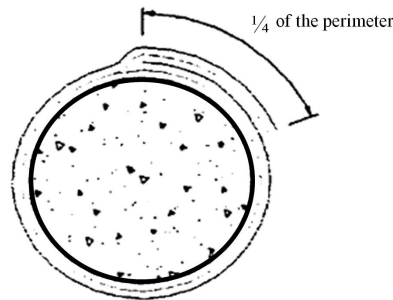
The experimental program was carried out on: 1) cylindrical specimens with a diameter of 160 mm and a height of 320 mm; 2) short columns specimens with a square cross section of 140x140 mm and a height of 280 mm. For all RC specimens the diameter of longitudinal and transverse reinforcing steel bars were respectively 12 mm and 8 mm. The longitudinal steel ratio was constant for all specimens and equal to 2.25%. The yield strength of the longitudinal and transversal reinforcement was 500 MPa and 235 MPa; respectively. The specimen notations are as follows. The first letter refers to section shape: C for circular and S for square. The next two letters indicate the type of concrete: PC for plain concrete and RC for reinforced concrete, followed by the concrete mixture: I for normal strength (26 MPa), II for medium strength (50 MPa) and III for high strength (62 MPa). The last letters specifies the number of CFRP layers (0L, 1L and 3L), followed by the number of specimen. Specimens involved in the experimental work are indicated in Table 1.

Specimen designation	Concrete mixture	Nominal dimensions [mm]	Number of CFRP layers	Number of specimens	Unconfined concrete strength [MPa]
CPCI.0L	I	Ø160 x 320	0	2	26
CPCI.1L			1	1	
CPCI.3L			3	1	
CRCI.0L			0	2	
CRCI.1L			1	2	
CRCI.3L			3	2	
SPCI.0L	I	140x140x280	0	2	50
SPCI.1L			1	1	
SPCI.3L			3	1	
SRCI.0L			0	2	
SRCI.1L			1	2	
SRCI.3L			3	2	
CPCII.0L	II	Ø160 x 320	0	2	50
CPCII.1L			1	1	
CPCII.3L			3	1	
CRCII.0L			0	2	
CRCII.1L			1	2	
CRCII.3L			3	2	
SPCII.0L	II	140x140x280	0	2	62
SPCII.1L			1	1	
SPCII.3L			3	1	
SRCII.0L			0	2	
SRCII.1L			1	2	
SRCII.3L			3	2	
CPCIII.0L	III	Ø160 x 320	0	2	62
CPCIII.1L			1	1	
CPCIII.3L			3	1	
CRCIII.0L			0	2	
CRCIII.1L			1	2	
CRCIII.3L			3	2	
SPCIII.0L	III	140x140x280	0	2	62
SPCIII.1L			1	1	
SPCIII.3L			3	1	
SRCIII.0L			0	2	
SRCIII.1L			1	2	
SRCIII.3L			3	2	

**Table 1.** Details of test specimens

### 4.3. Fiber-Reinforced Polymer Wrapping

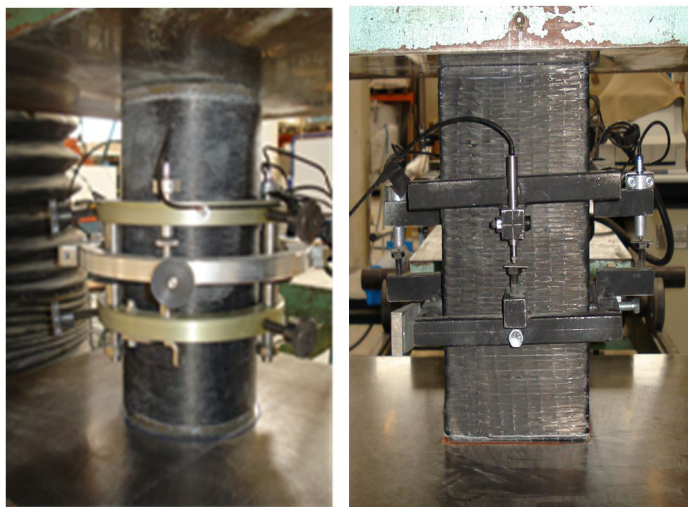
After 28 days of curing, the FRP jackets were applied to the specimens by hand lay-up of CFRP Wrap with an epoxy resin. The resin system used in this work was made of two parts, namely, resin and hardener. The components were thoroughly mixed with a mechanical agitator for at least 3 min. The concrete cylinders were cleaned and completely dried before the resin was applied. The mixed Sikadur-330 epoxy resin was directly applied onto the substrate at a rate of  $0,7 \text{ kg/m}^2$ . The fabric was carefully placed into the resin with gloved hands and smooth out any irregularities or air pockets using a plastic laminating roller. The roller was continuously used until the resin was reflected on the surface of the fabric, an indication of fully wetting. After the application of the first wrap of the CFRP, a second layer of resin at a rate of  $0,5 \text{ kg/m}^2$  was applied on the surface of the first layer to allow the impregnation of the second layer of the CFRP. The third layer is made in the same way. Finally, a layer of resin was applied on the surface of wrapped cylinders. This system is a passive type in that tensile stress in the FRP is gradually developed as the concrete dilates. This expansion is confined by the FRP jacket, which is loaded in tension in the hoop direction. Each layer was wrapped around the cylinder with an overlap of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the perimeter to avoid sliding or debonding of fibers during tests and to ensure the development of full composite strength (Figure 4). The wrapped cylinder specimens were left at room temperature for 1 week for the epoxy to harden adequately before testing.



**Figure 4.** Wrapped cylinder specimens

### 4.4. Test Procedures

Specimens were loaded under a monotonic uni-axial compression load up to failure. The compressive load was applied at a rate corresponding to  $0,24 \text{ MPa/s}$  and was recorded with an automatic data acquisition system. Axial and lateral strains were measured using appreciable extensometer. The instrumentation included one radial linear variable differential transducers (LVDTs) placed in the form of a hoop at the mid-height of the specimens. Measurement devices also included three vertical LVDTs to measure the average axial strains. Prior to testing, all CFRP-wrapped cylinders, as well as the plain concrete cylinders, were capped with sulfur mortar at both ends. The test setup for the cylinders is as shown in Figure 5.



**Figure 5.** Test set-up

## 5. Test Results and Discussion

### 5.1. Overall Behavior

Compression behavior of the CFRP wrapped specimens was mostly similar in each series in terms of stress-strain curves and failure modes of the columns. From the average experimental results reported in Table 2, it can be seen that the increase in strength and axial strain varied according to the unconfined concrete strength, the cross section shape and the amount of confinement provided by CFRP (expressed in number of layers).

The test results described in Table 2 indicate that CFRP-confinement can significantly enhance the ultimate strengths and strains of both plain- and RC-columns. As observed for normal-strength RC specimens (26MPa) with circular and square cross-sections, the average increase in strength were in the order of 69% and 22% over its unconfined concrete strength for columns with 1 layer, 141% and 46% for columns with 3 layers of CFRP jackets, respectively, while the respective values for medium-strength concrete (50 MPa) were 33% and 17% for 1 layer, 72% and 30% for 3 layers of CFRP jackets. Regarding high-strength concrete specimens (62 MPa) with circular and square cross-sections,  $f'_{cc}$  increased on average 20% and 17% for 1 layer, 50% and 24% for CFRP jackets of 3 layers, respectively.

The axial strains corresponding to CFRP-confined columns ( $\epsilon_{cc}$ ), for the normal-strength RC specimens with circular and square cross-sections, were on average 4.06 and 1.41 times that of unconfined concrete ( $\epsilon_{co}$ ) for 1 layer, 6.09 and 1.95 times for 3 layers of CFRP jackets, respectively, while the respective values for medium-strength concrete were 2.76 and 1.32



times for 1 layer, 4.49 and 1.69 times for 3 layers. For high-strength concrete specimens with circular and square cross-sections,  $\varepsilon_{cc}$  increased 1.39 and 1.03 times for 1 layer, 2.29 and 1.37 times for CFRP jackets of 3 layers, respectively.

Figure 6 shows the increase in compressive strength versus the unconfined concrete strength  $f_{co}$  for plain and RC columns confined with one and three layers of CFRP wrap. It is evident that as the unconfined concrete strength increases, the confinement effectiveness decreases. The FRP-wrapped cylinders with the least  $f_{co}$  (26 MPa) show the maximum increases in confined strength  $f'_{cc}$ . Figure 7 shows the effect of  $f_{co}$  on the peak strain  $\varepsilon_{cc}$  of the confined concrete. Test results clearly showed that the confinement effectiveness reduces with an increase in the unconfined concrete strength for both circular and square columns and strength enhancement was more significant for circular columns than for square ones. This is due to the concentration of stresses at the corner of the square section and consequently to the lower confining pressure and smaller effective confined concrete core area.

Compared to the FRP-confinement-effectiveness, the confinement provided by the minimum transverse reinforcing steel required by Eurocode 2 led to a limited enhancement in both compressive strength and axial strain with respect to plain concrete specimens. With the exception of SRCI.0L specimens, where its presence contributed to a significant increase in the prism load carrying capacity and ductility as shown in Figures 6 and 7.

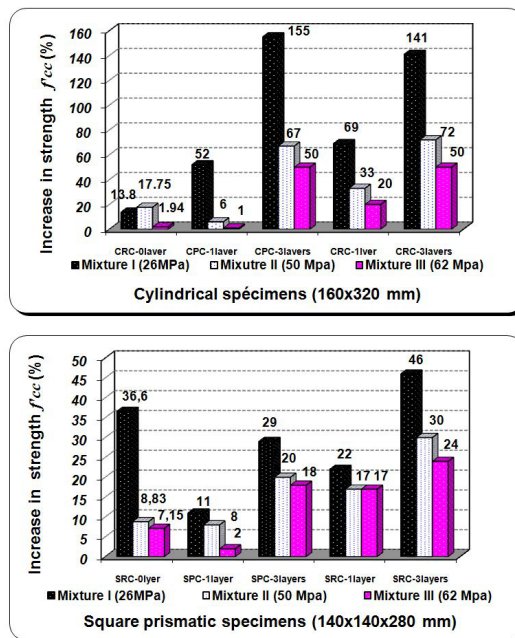


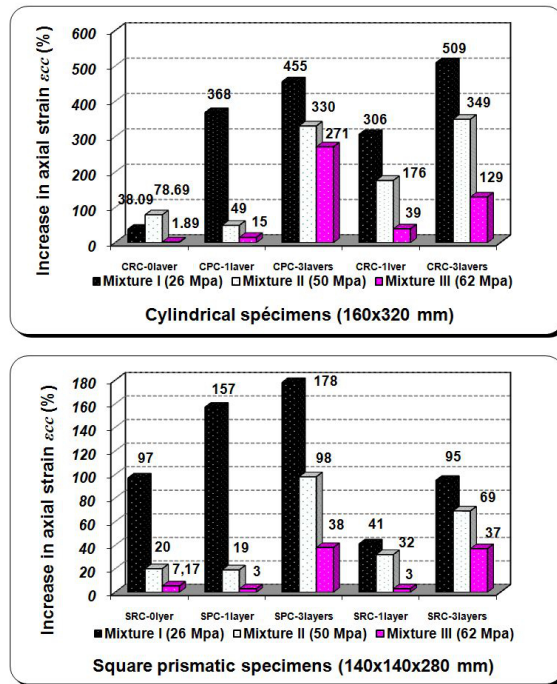
Figure 6. Effect of unconfined strength of concrete on peak stresses

Concrete mixture	Specimen Code	$f'_{co}$ [MPa]	$f'_{cc}$ [MPa]	$f'_{cc}/f'_{co}$	$\epsilon_{cc}$ [‰]	$\epsilon_{cc}/\epsilon_{co}$	$\epsilon_{h,rupt}$ [‰]	$\epsilon_{h,rupt}/\epsilon_{ho}$
I (26MPa)	CPCI.0L		25.93	1.00	2.73	1.00	1.77	1.00
	CPCI.1L	25.93	39.63	1.52	12.78	4.68	13.12	7.41
	CPCI.3L		66.14	2.55	15.16	5.55	13.18	7.44
	CRCI.0L		29.51	1.00	3.77	1.00	4.95	1.00
	CRCI.1L	29.51	49.88	1.69	15.34	4.06	13.15	2.65
	CRCI.3L		71.35	2.41	22.98	6.09	13.24	2.67
	CPCII.0L		49.46	1.00	1.69	1.00	1.33	1.00
	CPCII.1L	49.46	52.75	1.06	2.52	1.49	2.90	2.18
	CPCII.3L		82.91	1.67	7.27	4.30	13.15	9.88
II (50MPa)	CRCII.0L		58.24	1.00	3.02	1.00	5.05	1.00
	CRCII.1L	58.24	77.51	1.33	8.36	2.76	13.16	2.60
	CRCII.3L		100.41	1.72	13.58	4.49	13.18	2.61
	CPCIII.0L		61.81	1.00	2.64	1.00	2.40	1.00
	CPCIII.1L	61.81	62.68	1.01	3.04	1.15	2.46	1.02
	CPCIII.3L		93.19	1.50	9.80	3.71	12.89	5.37
	CRCIII.0L		63.01	1.00	2.69	1.00	4.90	1.00
	CRCIII.1L	63.01	76.21	1.20	3.75	1.39	5.20	1.06
	CRCIII.3L		94.81	1.50	6.18	2.29	5.62	1.14
III (62MPa)	SPCI.0L		24.77	1.00	2.17	1.00	3.62	1.00
	SPCI.1L	24.77	27.66	1.11	5.58	2.57	12.23	3.37
	SPCI.3L		32.03	1.29	6.05	2.78	13.23	3.65
	SRCI.0L		33.59	1.00	4.29	1.00	9.38	1.00
	SRCI.1L	33.59	41.02	1.22	6.08	1.41	11.58	1.23
	SRCI.3L		49.12	1.46	8.40	1.95	14.38	1.53
	SPCII.0L		48.53	1.00	3.38	1.00	3.83	1.00
	SPCII.1L	48.53	52.52	1.08	4.03	1.19	7.34	1.91
	SPCII.3L		58.25	1.20	6.72	1.98	9.88	2.57
II (50MPa)	SRCII.0L		52.82	1.00	4.07	1.00	7.50	1.00
	SRCII.1L	52.82	62.04	1.17	5.41	1.32	8.56	1.14
	SRCII.3L		69.09	1.30	6.89	1.69	10.83	1.44
	SPCIII.0L		59.53	1.00	3.56	1.00	3.89	1.00
	SPCIII.1L	59.53	61.30	1.02	3.69	1.03	3.97	1.02
	SPCIII.3L		70.35	1.18	4.94	1.38	6.69	1.71
	SRCIII.0L		63.79	1.00	3.75	1.00	5.71	1.00
	SRCIII.1L	63.79	74.84	1.17	3.87	1.03	5.74	1.01
	SRCIII.3L		79.59	1.24	5.14	1.37	7.96	1.39

**Table 2.** Mean-values of experimental results of CFRP-wrapped specimens

## 5.2. Stress-Strain Response

Representative stress-strain curves for each series of tested CFRP-wrapped specimens are reported in Figure 8 for normal-strength concrete (26 MPa), Figure 9 for medium-strength concrete (50 MPa) and in Figure 10 for high-strength concrete (62 MPa). These figures give the axial stress versus the axial and lateral strains for circular and square specimens with zero, one and three layers of CFRP wrap. It can be clearly noticed that both the stress and strain at failure for the confined specimens were higher than those for unconfined ones. These figures shows also how the ductility of the concrete specimens was affected by the increase of the degree of confinement.



**Figure 7.** Effect of unconfined strength of concrete on peak strains

The obtained stress-strain curves which characterize the CFRP confined concrete are mostly bilinear. The first zone is essentially a linear response governed by the stiffness of the unconfined concrete, which indicates that no confinement is activated in the CFRP wraps since the lateral strains in the concrete are very small. The strengthening effect of the CFRP layers begins only after the concrete has reached the peak strength of the unconfined concrete: transversal strains in the concrete activate the FRP jacket. In this region little increases of load produce large lateral expansions, and consequently a higher confining pressure. In the case of circular sections the section is fully confined, therefore the second slope is positive, show-

ing the capacity of confining pressure to limit the effects of the deteriorated concrete core, which allows reaching higher stresses. With this type of stress-strain curves (the increasing type), both the compressive strength and the ultimate strain are reached at the same point and are significantly enhanced. Instead in the cases of square sections (sharp edges) with a small amount of FRP, the peak stress is similar to that of unconfined concrete, indicating the fact that the confining action is mostly limited at the corners, producing a confining pressure not sufficient to overcome the effect of concrete degradation. Otherwise with low levels of confinement (one CFRP layer), the second part of the bilinear curve shifts from strain hardening to a flat plateau, and eventually to a sudden strain softening with a drastically reduced ductility.

From the trends shown in Figures 8, 9 and 10, it is clear that, unlike normal strength concrete, in medium- to high- strength concrete, confining the specimens with one CFRP layer does not significantly change the stress-strain behavior of confined concrete from that of unconfined concrete except for a limited increase in compressive strength. In that case the stress-strain curve terminates at a stress  $f'_{cu}$  (stress in concrete at the ultimate strain)  $< f'_{cor}$  the specimen is said to be insufficiently confined. Such case should not be allowed in design.

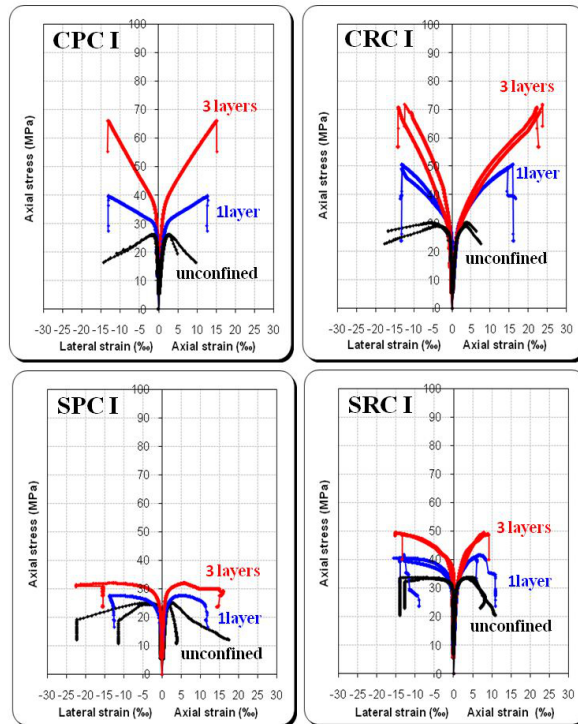
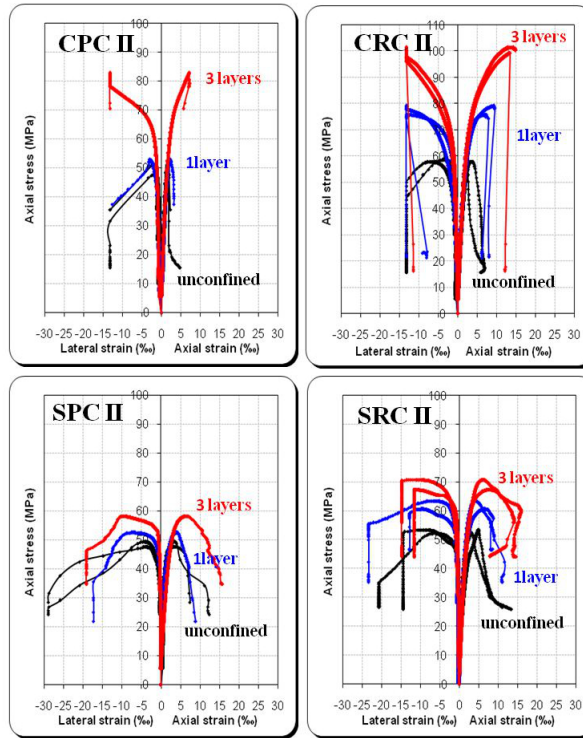


Figure 8. Experimental stress strain curves of normal-strength concrete specimens (26 MPa)



**Figure 9.** Experimental stress strain curves of medium-strength concrete specimens (50 MPa)

### 5.3. Failure Modes

Figure 11 illustrate the failure modes for circular and square columns wrapped with CFRP sheets. All the CFRP-wrapped cylinders failed by the rupture of the FRP jacket due to hoop tension. The CFRP-confined specimens failed in a sudden and explosive manner and were only preceded by some snapping sounds. Many hoop sections formed as the CFRP ruptured. These hoops were either concentrated in the central zone of the specimen or distributed over the entire height. The wider the hoop, the greater the section of concrete that remained attached to the inside faces of the delaminated CFRP. Regarding confined concrete prisms, failure initiated at or near a corner, because of the high stress concentration at these locations. Collapse occurred almost without advance warning by sudden rupture of the composite wrap. For all confined specimens, delamination was not observed at the overlap location of the jacket, which confirmed the adequate stress transfer over the splice.

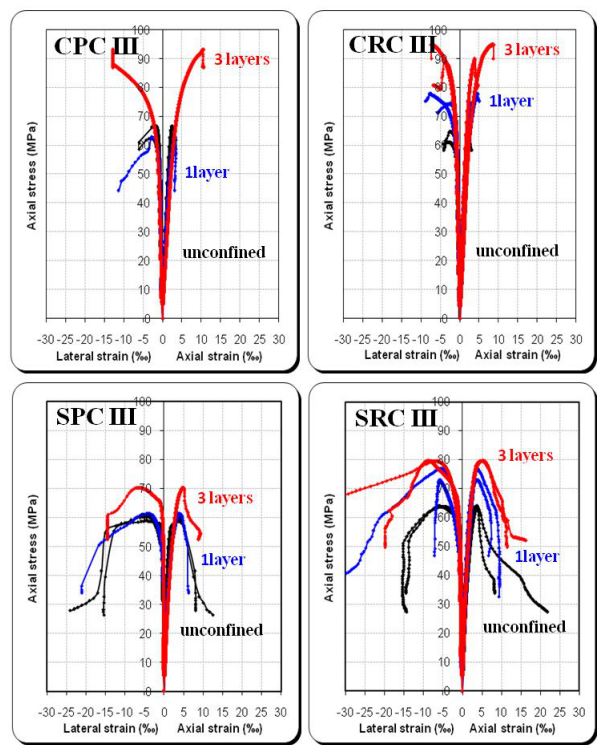


Figure 10. Experimental stress strain curves of high-strength concrete specimens (62 MPa)



Figure 11. Typical failure modes for the tested specimens

## 6. Model of FRP-Confined Concrete

### 6.1. Circular Columns

#### 6.1.1. Compressive Strength of FRP-Confined Concrete

Various models for confinement of concrete with FRP have been developed. The majority of these models were performed on plain concrete specimens' tests. A limited number of tests have been reported in the literature on the axial compressive strength and strain of reinforced-concrete specimens confined with FRP. Most of the existing strength models for FRP-confined concrete adopted the concept of Richart et al. (1929) [22], in which the strength at failure for concrete confined by hydrostatic fluid pressure takes the following form:

$$f'_{cc} = f'_{co} + k_1 \cdot f_l \quad (4)$$

Where  $f'_{cc}$  and  $f'_{co}$  are the compressive strength of confined and the unconfined concrete respectively,  $f_l$  is the lateral confining pressure and  $k_1$  is the confinement effectiveness coefficient. In applying their model to steel-confined concrete, Richart et al. (1929) [22] assumed that  $k_1$  is a constant equal to 4.1. However, several studies revealed that existing models for the axial compressive strength of steel-confined concrete are unconservative and cannot be used for FRP-confined concrete (see: [6,21,23-27]; among others). Many authors have raised towards the steel-based confinement models the objection that they do not account for the profound difference in uniaxial tensile stress-strain behavior between steel and FRP. According to these authors, while the assumption of constant confining pressure is still realistic in the case of steel confinement in the yield phase, it cannot be extended to FRP materials which do not exhibit any yielding and therefore apply on the concrete core a continuously increasing inward pressure. However, a number of strength models have been proposed specifically for FRP-confined concrete which employ Equation (4) with modified expressions for  $k_1$  (e.g. [6,7,23-25,27-36]). Most of these models used a constant value for  $k_1$  (between 2 and 3.5) indicating that the experimental data available in the literature show a linear relationship between the strength of confined concrete  $f'_{cc}$  and the lateral confining pressure  $f_l$  ([7,29,31-37]). Other researchers expressed  $k_1$  in nonlinear form in terms of  $f_l/f'_{co}$  or  $f_l$  [6,23-25,27,28,30].

#### FRP Circumferential Failure Strain

According to the obtained test results, cylinder failure occurs before the FRP reached their ultimate strain capacities  $\varepsilon_{fu}$ . So the failure occurs prematurely and the circumferential failure strain was lower than the ultimate strain obtained from standard tensile testing of the FRP composite. This phenomenon considerably affects the accuracy of the existing models for FRP-confined concrete. Referring to Table 3, for example, the rupture of the low-strength-cylinder IRCC.2.3L corresponded to a maximum composite extension (circumferential failure strain)  $\varepsilon_{h,rupt}$  of 12.42 ‰ which is lower than the ultimate composite strain  $\varepsilon_{fu}$  (14



‰) as it represent about 88 % of it. This reduction in the strain of the FRP composites can be attributed to several causes as reported in related literature [6,33,38]:

- The curved shape of the composite wrap or misalignment of fibers may reduce the FRP axial strength;
- Near failure the concrete is internally cracked resulting in non-homogeneous deformations. Due to this non-homogeneous deformations and high loads applied on the cracked concrete, local stress concentrations may occur in the FRP reinforcement.

Concrete mixture	Specimen code	$\epsilon_{fu}$ (‰)	$\epsilon_{h,rupt}$ (‰)	$\epsilon_{h,rupt} / \epsilon_{fu}$
I (26 MPa)	CRCI.1L <sub>1</sub>	14	13.15	0.939
	CRCI.1L <sub>2</sub>	14	13.16	0.940
	CRCI.3L <sub>1</sub>	14	14.06	1.004
	CRCI.3L <sub>2</sub>	14	12.42	0.887
	CPCI.1L <sub>1</sub>	14	13.12	0.937
	CPCI.3L <sub>1</sub>	14	13.18	0.941
II (50 MPa)	CRCII.1L <sub>1</sub>	14	13.17	0.940
	CRCII.1L <sub>2</sub>	14	13.16	0.940
	CRCII.3L <sub>1</sub>	14	13.20	0.942
	CRCII.3L <sub>2</sub>	14	13.17	0.940
	CPCII.1L <sub>1</sub>	14	2.90	0.207
	CPCII.3L <sub>1</sub>	14	13.15	0.939
III (62 MPa)	CRCIII.1L <sub>1</sub>	14	7.79	0.556
	CRCIII.1L <sub>2</sub>	14	2.61	0.186
	CRCIII.3L <sub>1</sub>	14	4.10	0.292
	CRCIII.3L <sub>2</sub>	14	7.15	0.510
	CPCIII.1L <sub>1</sub>	14	2.46	0.175
	CPCIII.3L <sub>1</sub>	14	12.89	0.920

**Table 3.** Average hoop rupture strain ratios (circular specimens)

### *Effective FRP Strain Coefficient*

In existing models for FRP-confined concrete, it is commonly assumed that the FRP ruptures when the hoop stress in the FRP jacket reaches its tensile strength from either flat coupon tests which is herein referred to as the FRP material tensile strength. This assumption is the



basis for calculating the maximum confining pressure  $f_l$  (the confining pressure reached when the FRP ruptures) given by Equation (1). The confinement ratio of an FRP-confined specimen is defined as the ratio of the maximum confining pressure to the unconfined concrete strength ( $f_l/f'_{co}$ ).

However, experimental results show that, the FRP material tensile strength was not reached at the rupture of FRP in FRP-confined concrete. Table 4 provides the average ratios between the measured circumferential strain at FRP rupture ( $\epsilon_{h,rupt}$ ) and the ultimate tensile strain of the FRP material ( $\epsilon_{fu}$ ). It is seen that, when all circular specimens of the present study are considered together, the average ratio ( $\epsilon_{h,rupt}/\epsilon_{fu}$ ) has a value closer to 0.73 and is referred to, in this paper, as the effective FRP strain coefficient  $\eta$ . Thus, the maximum confining pressure given by Equation (1) can be considered as a nominal value. The effective maximum lateral confining pressure is given by:

$$f_{l,eff} = \frac{2t_{frp}E_{frp}\epsilon_{h,rupt}}{d} = \frac{2t_{frp}E_{frp}\eta\epsilon_{fu}}{d} = \eta f_l \quad (5)$$

Table 3 indicates that the assumption that the FRP ruptures when the stress in the jacket reaches the FRP material tensile strength is invalid for concrete confined by FRP wraps.

#### Proposed Equation

A simple equation is proposed to predict the peak strength of FRP-confined concrete of different unconfined strengths based on regression of test data reported in Table 4. Figure 12 shows the relation between actual confinement ratio  $f_{l,eff}/f'_{co}$  and the strengthening ratio  $f'_{cc}/f'_{co}$  for the cylinders of the test series. It can be seen that, strengthening ratio is proportional to the volumetric ratio and the strength of FRP (in terms of effective lateral confining pressure  $f_{l,eff}$ ) and is inversely proportional to unconfined concrete strength. Therefore the relationship may be approximated by a linear function. The trend line of these test data can be closely approximated using the following equation:

$$\frac{f'_{cc}}{f'_{co}} = 1 + 2.20 \frac{f_{l,eff}}{f'_{co}} \quad (6)$$

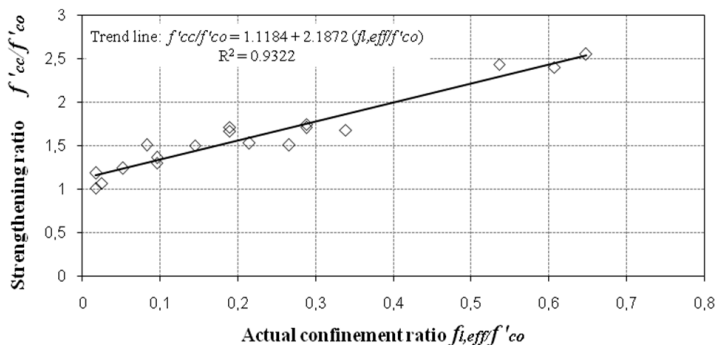
Using a reduction factor  $\eta$  of 0.73 with the replacement of  $f_{l,eff}$  by  $f_l$  into Equation (6) the ultimate axial compressive strength of FRP-confined concrete takes the form:

$$\frac{f'_{cc}}{f'_{co}} = 1 + 1.60 \frac{f_l}{f'_{co}} \quad (7)$$

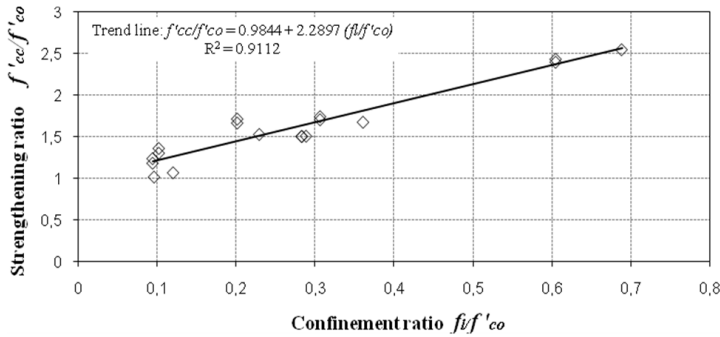
Figure 13 is a plot of the strengthening ratio  $f'_{cc}/f'_{co}$  against the confinement ratio  $f_l/f'_{co}$ . The trend line of this figure shows a much greater average confinement effectiveness coefficient  $k_1$ . This can be attributed to the effect of the effective lateral confining pressure.

Specimen code	$f'_{co}$ (Mpa)	$t_{cfRP}$ (mm)	$E_{cfRP}$ (Gpa)	$\epsilon_{fu}$ (‰)	$\epsilon_{h.rup.}$ (‰)	$f_1 / f'_{co}$	$f_{l,eff} / f'_{co}$	$f'_{cc} / f'_{co}$	$\epsilon_{co}$ (‰)	$\epsilon_{cc} / \epsilon_{co}$
CRCI.1L <sub>1</sub>	29.51	1	34	14	13.15	0.201	0.189	1.714	3.77	4.225
CRCI.1L <sub>2</sub>	29.51	1	34	14	13.16	0.201	0.189	1.666	3.77	3.912
CRCI.3L <sub>1</sub>	29.51	3	34	14	14.06	0.604	0.607	2.400	3.77	5.893
CRCI.3L <sub>2</sub>	29.51	3	34	14	12.42	0.604	0.536	2.435	3.77	6.297
CPCI.1L <sub>1</sub>	25.93	1	34	14	13.12	0.229	0.215	1.528	2.73	4.681
CPCI.3L <sub>1</sub>	25.93	3	34	14	13.18	0.688	0.648	2.550	2.73	5.553
CRCII.1L <sub>1</sub>	58.24	1	34	14	13.17	0.102	0.096	1.302	3.02	2.440
CRCII.1L <sub>2</sub>	58.24	1	34	14	13.16	0.102	0.096	1.359	3.02	3.096
CRCII.3L <sub>1</sub>	58.24	3	34	14	13.20	0.306	0.288	1.742	3.02	4.543
CRCII.3L <sub>2</sub>	58.24	3	34	14	13.17	0.306	0.288	1.705	3.02	4.450
CPCII.1L <sub>1</sub>	49.46	1	34	14	2.90	0.120	0.024	1.066	1.69	1.491
CPCII.3L <sub>1</sub>	49.46	3	34	14	13.15	0.360	0.338	1.676	1.69	4.301
CRCIII.1L <sub>1</sub>	63.01	1	34	14	7.79	0.094	0.052	1.237	2.69	1.706
CRCIII.1L <sub>2</sub>	63.01	1	34	14	2.61	0.094	0.017	1.181	2.69	1.081
CRCIII.3L <sub>1</sub>	63.01	3	34	14	4.10	0.283	0.082	1.506	2.69	1.438
CRCIII.3L <sub>2</sub>	63.01	3	34	14	7.15	0.283	0.144	1.503	2.69	3.156
CPCIII.1L <sub>1</sub>	61.81	1	34	14	2.46	0.096	0.016	1.014	2.64	1.151
CPCIII.3L <sub>1</sub>	61.81	3	34	14	12.89	0.288	0.265	1.507	2.64	3.711

**Table 4.** Data and results of CFRP wrapped cylinders



**Figure 12.** Strengthening ratio vs. actual confinement ratio



**Figure 13.** Strengthening ratio vs. confinement ratio

### 6.1.2. Axial Strain of FRP-Confined Concrete

Early investigation showed that for steel confined concrete, the axial compressive strain  $\varepsilon_{cc}$  at the peak axial stress can be related to the lateral confining pressure [22] by:

$$\varepsilon_{cc} = \varepsilon_{co} \left( 1 + k_2 \frac{f_l}{f'_{co}} \right) \quad (8)$$

Where  $\varepsilon_{co}$  is the axial strain of the unconfined concrete at its peak stress and  $k_2$  is the strain enhancement coefficient. Richart et al. (1929) [22] suggested  $k_2 = 5 k_1$  for steel-confined concrete. For FRP-confined concrete, many studies suggested that ultimate axial strain can also be related to the lateral confining pressure (e.g. [3,6,15,28,33,36,37,39]). In literature, some methods for predicting the ultimate strain of FRP-confined concrete cylinders have been proposed. Existing models can be classified into three categories as follows:

(a) Steel-based confined models (e.g. [1, 40]), Saadatmanesh et al. (1994) [1] assumed that:

$$\frac{\varepsilon_{cc}}{\varepsilon_{co}} = 1 + 5 \left( \frac{f'_{cc}}{f'_{co}} - 1 \right) \quad (9)$$

where  $\varepsilon_{co}$  is the strain in peak stress of unconfined concrete and  $\varepsilon_{cc}$  is axial strain at peak stress of the FRP-confined concrete.

(b) Empirical or analytical models (e.g. [10,21,24,29,30,36,39,41]), Teng et al. (2002) [21] proposed:

- For CFRP wrapped concrete:

$$\frac{\varepsilon_{cc}}{\varepsilon_{co}} = 2 + 15 \left( \frac{f_l}{f'_{co}} \right) \quad (10)$$

- For design use:

$$\frac{\varepsilon_{cc}}{\varepsilon_{co}} = 1.75 + 10 \left( \frac{f_l}{f'_{co}} \right) \quad (11)$$

(c) Recently, some models for predicting the axial stress and strain of FRP-confined concrete were suggested based on numerical method or plasticity analysis (e.g. [42,46]), whereas these models are often not suitable for direct use in design.

#### Proposed Equation

Figure 14 shows the relation between the strain enhancement ratio and the actual confinement ratio of the present test data. A linear relationship clearly exists. This diagram indicates that the axial strain of FRP-confined concrete can be related linearly to the actual confinement ratio. Based on regression of test data reported in Table 5, the axial strain of CFRP-wrapped concrete can be approximated by the following expression:

$$\frac{\varepsilon_{cc}}{\varepsilon_{co}} = 2 + 7.6 \left( \frac{f_{l,eff}}{f'_{co}} \right) \quad (12)$$

Replacing  $f_{l,eff}$  by  $f_l$  into Equation (12) the axial strain of FRP-confined concrete takes the form:

$$\frac{\varepsilon_{cc}}{\varepsilon_{co}} = 2 + 5.55 \left( \frac{f_l}{f'_{co}} \right) \quad (13)$$

Given that  $\varepsilon_{cc}$  for concrete sufficiently confined by FRP is the ultimate strain  $\varepsilon_{cu}$ .

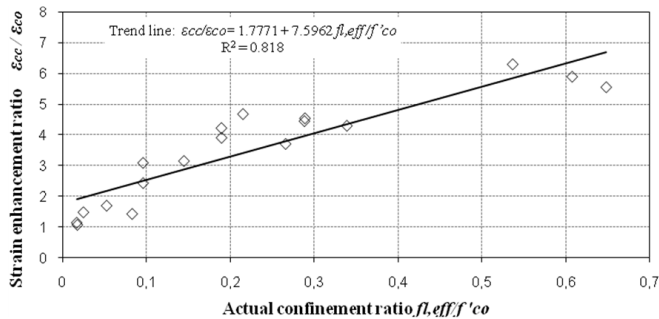
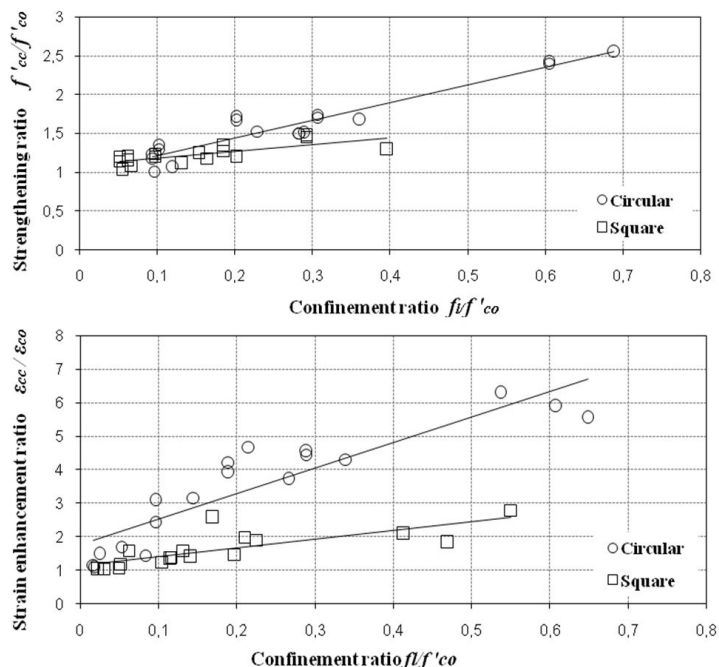


Figure 14. Strain enhancement ratio vs. actual confinement ratio



**Figure 15.** Strengthening ratio vs. confinement ratio and strain enhancement ratio vs. confinement ratio for the test results of this work

### 6.1.3. Validation of the Proposed Model

Using above model, the compressive strength and axial strain of FRP-confined specimens collected from other studies [6,36,47,48] were predicted as shown in Tables 5 and 6 which clearly exhibits excellent agreement between the experimental and predicted results. The present model is more accurate in predicting the compressive strength but less accurate in predicting the axial strain.

In Figure 15 the strengthening ratio-confinement ratio and the strain enhancement ratio-confinement ratio plots for the test results of this work (circular and square specimens) are shown, together with their respective linear regressions. From these Figures, it can be seen that the the axial confined compressive strength and the corresponding axial strain, approximately, increase linearly with the increase in confining lateral pressure for all types of section geometry. There is also a great distinction between the tendency of the results obtained for circular columns and those for square ones.

<i>Specimen code</i>	<i>FRP Type</i>	<i>f'<sub>co</sub></i> (Mpa)	<i>E<sub>frp</sub></i> (Gpa)	<i>ε<sub>fu</sub></i> (%)	<i>t<sub>frp</sub></i> (mm)	<i>d</i> (mm)	<i>f<sub>i</sub></i> (Mpa)	<i>k<sub>1</sub></i>	<i>f'<sub>cc,theo.</sub></i> (Mpa)	<i>f'<sub>cc,exp.</sub></i> (Mpa)	<i>f'<sub>cc,theo./f'<sub>cc,exp.</sub></sub></i>
<b>Matthys et al. (2005) [6]</b>											
k2	CFRP	32	198	11.9	0.585	400	6.891	1.6	43.027	54.30	0.792
k8	HFRP	32	120	9.6	0.492	400	2.833	1.6	36.534	44.40	0.822
<b>Ilki et al. (2003) [47]</b>											
CYL-5-1	CFRP	6.2	230	15	0.825	150	37.950	1.6	66.920	87.70	0.763
CYL-5-2	CFRP	6.2	230	15	0.825	150	37.950	1.6	66.920	82.70	0.809
<b>Lam et al. (2006) [48]</b>											
CI-M1	CFRP	41.1	250	15.2	0.165	152	8.250	1.6	54.300	52.60	1.032
CI-M3	CFRP	41.1	250	15.2	0.165	152	8.250	1.6	54.300	55.40	0.980
CII-M3	CFRP	38.9	247	15.2	0.33	152	16.302	1.6	64.983	65.80	0.987
<b>Jiang et Teng (2007) [36]</b>											
36	CFRP	38	240.7	15	1.02	152	48.456	1.6	115.530	129	0.895
39	CFRP	38	240.7	15	1.36	152	64.608	1.6	141.374	158.5	0.891
40	CFRP	37.7	260	15	0.11	152	5.644	1.6	46.731	48.50	0.963
41	CFRP	37.7	260	15	0.11	152	5.644	1.6	46.731	50.30	0.929
42	CFRP	44.2	260	15	0.11	152	5.644	1.6	53.231	48.10	1.106
43	CFRP	44.2	260	15	0.11	152	5.644	1.6	53.231	51.10	1.041
45	CFRP	44.2	260	15	0.22	152	11.289	1.6	62.263	62.90	0.989
46	CFRP	47.6	250.5	15	0.33	152	16.315	1.6	73.704	82.70	0.891
Average: 0.926											
Standard deviation: 0.101											
Coefficient of variation (%): 10.90											

**Table 5.** Comparison of experimental and predicted results: compressive strength

Specimen code	FRP type	$\epsilon_{co}$	$\epsilon_{cc,exp}$	$k_2$	$\epsilon_{cc,theo}$	$\epsilon_{cc,theo} / \epsilon_{cc,exp}$
<b>Matthys et al. (2005) [6]</b>						
k2	CFRP	0.00280	0.0111	5.55	0.0089	0.806
k8	HFRP	0.00280	0.0059	5.55	0.0069	1.182
<b>Ilki et al. (2003) [47]</b>						
CYL-5-1	CFRP	0.00196	0.0910	5.55	0.0707	0.777
CYL-5-2	CFRP	0.00203	0.0940	5.55	0.0730	0.777
<b>Lam et al. (2006) [48]</b>						
CI-M1	CFRP	0.00256	0.0090	5.55	0.0079	0.885
CI-M3	CFRP	0.00256	0.0111	5.55	0.0079	0.718
CII-M3	CFRP	0.00256	0.0125	5.55	0.0110	0.885
<b>Jiang et Teng (2007) [36]</b>						
36	CFRP	0.00217	0.0279	5.55	0.0196	0.704
39	CFRP	0.00217	0.0354	5.55	0.0248	0.700
40	CFRP	0.00275	0.0089	5.55	0.0077	0.869
41	CFRP	0.00275	0.0091	5.55	0.0077	0.851
42	CFRP	0.00260	0.0069	5.55	0.0070	1.019
43	CFRP	0.00260	0.0088	5.55	0.0070	0.793
45	CFRP	0.00260	0.0102	5.55	0.0088	0.866
46	CFRP	0.00279	0.0130	5.55	0.0108	0.834
Average:						0.845
Standard deviation:						0.125
Coefficient of variation (%):						14.80

**Table 6.** Comparison of experimental and predicted results: axial strain

## 6.2. Square Columns

### 6.2.1. Compressive Strength

#### *The effective Lateral Confining Pressure*

The effective lateral confining pressure  $f'_l$  can be defined as a function of the shape through the use of a confinement effectiveness coefficient  $k_e$  as:

$$f'_l = k_e f_l \quad (14)$$

were  $f_i$  is the lateral confining pressure provided by an FRP jacket and can be evaluated using Equation (1), with the columns diameter  $d$  replaced by the diagonal length of the square section.  $f_i$  now becomes an equivalent confining pressure provided by the FRP jacket to an equivalent circular columns. On the other hand, the effective FRP strain coefficient  $\eta'$  is defined as the ratio of the FRP tensile hoop strain at rupture in the square column tests ( $\epsilon_{h,rupt}$ ) to the ultimate tensile strain from FRP tensile coupon tests ( $\epsilon_{fu}$ ):

$$\eta' = \frac{\epsilon_{h,rupt}}{\epsilon_{fu}} \quad (15)$$

The effective FRP strain coefficient represents the degree of participation of the FRP jacket, and the friction between concrete and FRP laminate. Type bond, geometry, FRP jacket thickness, and type of resin affect the effective FRP strain coefficient. From the experimental results (Table 7),  $\eta'$  was 68 % on average for square bonded jackets.

Specimen code	$f'_{co}$ (Mpa)	$t_{cfRP}$ (mm)	$E_{cfRP}$ (Gpa)	$\epsilon_{fu}$ (%)	$\epsilon_{h,rupt}$ (%)	$d$ (mm)	$f_i / f'_{co}$	$f_{i,eff} / f'_{co}$	$f'_{cc} / f'_{co}$	$\epsilon_{co}$ (%)	$\epsilon_{cc} / \epsilon_{co}$
SRCI.1L <sub>1</sub>	33.59	1	34	14	10.28	197.989	0.097	0.105	1.2051	4.29	1.249
SRCI.1L <sub>2</sub>	33.59	1	34	14	12.88	197.989	0.097	0.131	1.2373	4.29	1.585
SRCI.3L <sub>1</sub>	33.59	3	34	14	13.47	197.989	0.292	0.413	1.4534	4.29	2.093
SRCI.3L <sub>2</sub>	33.59	3	34	14	15.30	197.989	0.292	0.469	1.4713	4.29	1.825
SPCI.1L <sub>1</sub>	24.77	1	34	14	12.23	197.989	0.132	0.169	1.1167	2.17	2.571
SPCI.3L <sub>1</sub>	24.77	3	34	14	13.23	197.989	0.396	0.550	1.2931	2.17	2.788
SRCII.1L <sub>1</sub>	52.82	1	34	14	7.60	197.989	0.061	0.049	1.2009	4.07	1.066
SRCII.1L <sub>2</sub>	52.82	1	34	14	9.53	197.989	0.061	0.061	1.1484	4.07	1.594
SRCII.3L <sub>1</sub>	52.82	3	34	14	11.56	197.989	0.185	0.225	1.2755	4.07	1.909
SRCII.3L <sub>2</sub>	52.82	3	34	14	10.11	197.989	0.185	0.197	1.3406	4.07	1.476
SPCII.1L <sub>1</sub>	48.53	1	34	14	7.34	197.989	0.067	0.051	1.0822	3.38	1.192
SPCII.3L <sub>1</sub>	48.53	3	34	14	9.88	197.989	0.202	0.209	1.2003	3.38	1.988
SRCIII.1L <sub>1</sub>	63.79	1	34	14	5.78	197.989	0.051	0.031	1.1422	3.75	1.026
SRCIII.1L <sub>2</sub>	63.79	1	34	14	5.71	197.989	0.051	0.030	1.2043	3.75	1.037
SRCIII.3L <sub>1</sub>	63.79	3	34	14	7.16	197.989	0.153	0.115	1.2475	3.75	1.338
SRCIII.3L <sub>2</sub>	63.79	3	34	14	8.76	197.989	0.153	0.141	1.2478	3.75	1.402
SPCIII.1L <sub>1</sub>	59.53	1	34	14	3.97	197.989	0.054	0.022	1.0297	3.56	1.036
SPCIII.3L <sub>1</sub>	59.53	3	34	14	6.69	197.989	0.164	0.115	1.1818	3.56	1.387

**Table 7.** Data and results of CFRP confined square concrete specimens



Based on these observations, the effective equivalent lateral confining pressure  $f_l$  for square section, is given by:

-For square section:

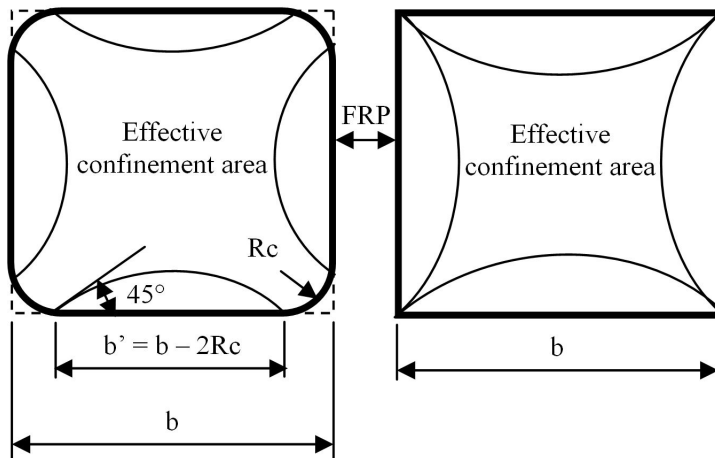
$$f_l = \frac{2t_{frp} E_{frp} \varepsilon_{h, rup}}{\sqrt{2}b} = \frac{2t_{frp} E_{frp} \eta' \varepsilon_{fu}}{\sqrt{2}b} \quad (16)$$

-For square section with round corners:

$$f_l = \frac{2t_{frp} E_{frp} \varepsilon_{h, rup}}{\sqrt{2}b - 2Rc(\sqrt{2}-1)} = \frac{2t_{frp} E_{frp} \eta' \varepsilon_{fu}}{\sqrt{2}b - 2Rc(\sqrt{2}-1)} \quad (17)$$

*Confinement Effectiveness Coefficient “ $k_e$ ”*

For the determination of the effectiveness factor  $k_e$  it can be assumed that, in the case of a circular cross-section, the entire concrete core is effectively confined, while, for the square section there is a reduction in the effectively confined core that can be assumed, analogously with the case of concrete core confined by transverse steel stirrups [17], in the form of a second-degree parabola with an initial tangent slope of  $45^\circ$ . For a square section wrapped with FRP (Figure 16) and with corners rounded with a radius  $Rc$ , the parabolic arching action is again assumed for the concrete core where the confining pressure is fully developed. Unlike a circular section, for which the concrete core is fully confined, a large part of the cross-section remains unconfined. Based on this observation, it is possible to obtain the area of unconfined concrete  $A_u$ , as follows:



**Figure 16.** Effectively confined core for square sections

- For square section:

$$A_u = 4 \left( \frac{b^2}{6} \right) = \frac{2b^2}{3} \quad (18)$$

- For square section with round corners:

$$A_u = 4 \left( \frac{b'^2}{6} \right) = \frac{2b'^2}{3} \quad (19)$$

The confinement effectiveness coefficient  $k_e$  is given by the ratio of the effective confinement area  $A_e$  to the total area of concrete enclosed by the FRP jacket,  $A_c$ , as follows:

$$k_e = \frac{A_e}{A_c} = \frac{(A_c - A_u)}{A_c} = 1 - \frac{A_u}{(A_g - A_s)} = 1 - \frac{A_u}{A_g(1 - \rho_{sc})} \quad (20)$$

Where  $A_g$  is the gross area of column section, and  $\rho_{sc}$  is the cross-sectional area ratio of longitudinal steel.

By substituting the expression (18) or (19) into (20), the confinement effectiveness coefficient  $k_e$  is therefore given by:

- For square section:

$$k_e = 1 - \frac{2b^2}{3A_g(1 - \rho_{sc})} \quad (21)$$

- For square section with round corners:

$$k_e = 1 - \frac{2b'^2}{3A_g(1 - \rho_{sc})} \quad (22)$$

### *Proposed Equation*

Base on the linear equation previously proposed by Richart et al. (1929) [22] for uniformly confined concrete, the proposed model employs similar approach with several modifications accounting for the effect of the shape, effective FRP strain and effective confinement.

The compressive strength of a square FRP-confined concrete column is proposed to be a simple modification of Equation (7) by the introduction of a confinement effectiveness coefficient denoted  $k_e$ . Thus,

$$\frac{f'_{cc}}{f'_{co}} = 1 + k_1 k_e \frac{f_l}{f'_{co}} \quad (23)$$

Where  $k_1 f_l / f'_{co}$  is the effective confinement ratio. The coefficient  $k_1$  was taken as 1.60, which was suggested for uniformly confined concrete. Considering the known values of the product of the parameters  $k_1$  and  $k_e$  as found from expression (23) for the tested columns of this work, the values of  $k_e$  were deduced, and were on average equal to 0.36. Finally, the equation proposed for the confined concrete strength is:

$$f'_{cc} = f'_{co} + 0.58 f_l \quad (24)$$

#### 6.2.2. Axial Strain at Peak Stress

Similarly to the compressive strength, the axial strain at peak stress is proposed to be given by the following equation in which a different confinement effectiveness coefficient,  $k_{e2}$ , is introduced:

$$\frac{\varepsilon_{cc}}{\varepsilon_{co}} = 2 + k_2 k_{e2} \left( \frac{f_l}{f'_{co}} \right) \quad (25)$$

In Equation (25),  $f_l$  is the confining pressure in an equivalent circular column given by Equation (16) for square section, while  $k_2 = 5.55$  and  $k_{e2} = 0.72$ . The equation proposed for the axial strain is:

$$\varepsilon_{cc} = \varepsilon_{co} \left[ 2 + 4 \left( \frac{f_l}{f'_{co}} \right) \right] \quad (26)$$

#### 6.2.3. Comparison Between Proposed Model and Existing Test Data

Tables 8 and 9 show comparisons between the predictions of the proposed model and the experimental results collected from other studies [49,50,51,52] for the compressive strength and the axial strain at peak stress of FRP-confined concrete in square sections. Clearly, the present model is more accurate in predicting the compressive strength but less accurate in predicting the axial strain. Accurate predictions of the axial strain are an issue that will require a great deal of further research.

<i>Specimen code</i>	<i>FRP type</i>	<i>f'<sub>co</sub> (Mpa)</i>	<i>t<sub>frp</sub> (mm)</i>	<i>E<sub>frp</sub> (Gpa)</i>	<i>ε<sub>fu</sub> (‰)</i>	<i>b (mm)</i>	<i>Rc (mm)</i>	<i>d (mm)</i>	<i>f<sub>l</sub> (Mpa)</i>	<i>f'<sub>cc</sub> (Mpa)</i>	<i>f'<sub>cc.théo</sub></i>	<i>f'<sub>cc.théo</sub> / f'<sub>cc.exp</sub></i>
<b>Demers and Neale (1994) [49]</b>												
-	CFRP	32.3	0.9	25	15.2	152	5	210.818	2.206	34.1	33.579	0.984
-	CFRP	42.2	0.9	25	15.2	152	5	210.818	2.206	45.99	43.479	0.945
-	CFRP	42.2	0.9	25	15.2	152	5	210.818	2.206	45.7	43.479	0.951
<b>Lam and Teng (2003<sup>b</sup>) [51]</b>												
S1R <sub>15</sub>	CFRP	33.7	0.165	257	17.58	150	15	199.705	5.076	35	36.644	1.046
S2R <sub>15</sub>	CFRP	33.7	0.33	257	17.58	150	15	199.705	10.15	50.4	39.589	0.785
<b>Rochette (1996) [50]</b>												
2B	CFRP	42	0.9	82.7	15	152	5	210.818	7.202	39.4	46.177	1.172
2D1	CFRP	42	0.9	82.7	15	152	25	194.249	7.816	42.1	46.533	1.105
2D2	CFRP	42	0.9	82.7	15	152	25	194.249	7.816	44.1	46.533	1.055
2G1	CFRP	42	0.9	82.7	15	152	38	183.480	8.275	47.3	46.799	0.989
2G2	CFRP	42	0.9	82.7	15	152	38	183.480	8.275	50.4	46.799	0.928
2C	CFRP	43.9	1.5	82.7	15	152	5	210.818	12.003	44.1	50.862	1.153
2E	CFRP	43.9	1.2	82.7	15	152	25	194.249	10.422	50.8	49.944	0.983
6A	AFRP	43	1.26	13.6	16.9	152	5	210.818	1.868	50.8	44.083	0.867
6D	AFRP	43	5.04	13.6	16.9	152	5	210.818	7.472	54.3	47.334	0.871
6E	AFRP	43	1.26	13.6	16.9	152	25	194.249	2.027	51.2	44.175	0.862
6F	AFRP	43	2.52	13.6	16.9	152	25	194.249	4.055	51.2	45.351	0.885
6G	AFRP	43	3.78	13.6	16.9	152	25	194.249	6.082	53.2	46.527	0.874
6H	AFRP	43	5.04	13.6	16.9	152	25	194.249	8.110	55.2	47.703	0.864
6I	AFRP	43	2.52	13.6	16.9	152	38	183.480	4.293	50.9	45.490	0.893
6J	AFRP	43	3.78	13.6	16.9	152	38	183.480	6.439	52.7	46.735	0.886
<b>Benzaid (2010) [52]</b>												
P300-R0-1P <sub>1</sub>	GFRP	54.8	1.04	23.8	21.2	100	0	141.421	5.046	54.50	57.726	1.059
P300-R0-1P <sub>2</sub>	GFRP	54.8	1.04	23.8	21.2	100	0	141.421	5.046	56.60	57.726	1.019
P300-R0-1P <sub>3</sub>	GFRP	54.8	1.04	23.8	21.2	100	0	141.421	5.046	57.20	57.726	1.009
P300-R8-1P <sub>1</sub>	GFRP	54.8	1.04	23.8	21.2	100	8	134.793	5.294	58.85	57.870	0.983
P300-R16-1P <sub>1</sub>	GFRP	54.8	1.04	23.8	21.2	100	16	128.166	5.568	60.56	58.029	0.958
									Average: 0.966			
									Standard deviation: 0.097			
									Coefficient of variation (%): 10.04			

**Table 8.** Performance of proposed model: compressive strength

<i>Specimen code</i>	<i>FRP type</i>	$\epsilon_{co}$	$\epsilon_{cc,exp}$	$k_2$	$k_{e2}$	$\epsilon_{cc,theo}$	$\epsilon_{cc,theo} / \epsilon_{cc,exp}$
<b>Demers and Neale (1994) [49]</b>							
1	CFRP	0.002	0.004	4		0.0045	1.136
2	CFRP	0.002	0.0035	4		0.0044	1.262
3	CFRP	0.002	0.0035	4		0.0044	1.262
<b>Lam and Teng (2003<sup>b</sup>) [51]</b>							
S1R <sub>15</sub>	CFRP	0.001989	0.004495	4		0.0051	1.151
S2R <sub>15</sub>	CFRP	0.002	0.0087	4		0.0064	0.736
<b>Rochette (1996) [50]</b>							
2B	CFRP	0.003	0.0069	4		0.0080	1.167
2D1	CFRP	0.003	0.0094	4		0.0082	0.875
2D2	CFRP	0.003	0.0089	4		0.0082	0.925
2G1	CFRP	0.003	0.0108	4		0.0083	0.774
2G2	CFRP	0.003	0.0116	4		0.0083	0.721
2C	CFRP	0.003	0.0102	4		0.0092	0.909
2E	CFRP	0.003	0.0135	4		0.0088	0.655
6A	AFRP	0.003	0.0106	4		0.0065	0.615
6D	AFRP	0.003	0.0124	4		0.0080	0.652
6E	AFRP	0.003	0.0079	4		0.0065	0.831
6F	AFRP	0.003	0.0097	4		0.0071	0.735
6G	AFRP	0.003	0.011	4		0.0076	0.699
6H	AFRP	0.003	0.0126	4		0.0082	0.655
6I	AFRP	0.003	0.0096	4		0.0071	0.749
6J	AFRP	0.003	0.0118	4		0.0077	0.660
<b>Benzaid (2010) [52]</b>							
P300-R0-1P <sub>1</sub>	GFRP	0.0025	0.0088	4		0.0059	0.672
P300-R0-1P <sub>2</sub>	GFRP	0.0025	0.0090	4		0.0059	0.657
P300-R0-1P <sub>3</sub>	GFRP	0.0025	0.0098	4		0.0059	0.604
P300-R8-1P <sub>1</sub>	GFRP	0.0025	0.0091	4		0.0059	0.655
P300-R16-1P <sub>1</sub>	GFRP	0.0025	0.0098	4		0.0060	0.613
Average:							0.815
Standard deviation:							0.214
Coefficient of variation (%):							26.30

**Table 9.** Performance of proposed model: axial strain

## 7. Conclusions

The results of this investigation have confirmed previous observations on the efficiency of confining FRP wraps. More specifically, the following concluding remarks can be made.

- It is evident that in all cases the presence of external CFRP jackets increased the mechanical properties of PC and RC specimens, in different amount according to the number of composite layers, the concrete properties and the cross-section shape.
- The failure of CFRP wrapped specimens occurred in a sudden and 'explosive' way preceded by typical creeping sounds. For cylindrical specimens, the fiber rupture starts mainly in their central zone, then propagates towards other sections. Regarding confined concrete prisms, failure initiated at or near a corner, because of the high stress concentration at these locations,
- CFRP strengthened specimens showed a typical bilinear trend with a transition zone. On overall, both ultimate compressive strength and ultimate strain are reached at the same point and are variably enhanced depending on the effect of other parameters.
- The efficiency of the CFRP confinement is higher for circular than for square sections, as expected. The increase of ultimate strength of sharp edged sections is low, although there is a certain gain of load capacity and of ductility.
- The CFRP confinement on low-strength concrete specimens produced higher results in terms of strength and strains than for high-strength concrete similar specimens. Therefore, the effect of CFRP confinement on the bearing and deformation capacities decreases with increasing concrete strength;
- Increasing the amount of CFRP sheets produce an increase in the compressive strength of the confined column but with a rate lower compared to that of the deformation capacity.
- In existing models for FRP-confined concrete, it is commonly assumed that the FRP ruptures when the hoop stress in the FRP jacket reaches its tensile strength from either flat coupon tests which is herein referred to as the FRP material tensile strength. However, experimental results show that the FRP material tensile strength was not reached at the rupture of FRP in FRP-confined concrete and specimen's failure occurs before the FRP reached their ultimate strain capacities. The failure occurs prematurely and the circumferential failure strain was lower than the ultimate strain obtained from standard tensile testing of the FRP composite. This phenomenon considerably affects the accuracy of the existing models for FRP-confined concrete. So on the basis of the effective lateral confining pressure of composite jacket and the effective circumferential FRP failure strain a new equations were proposed to predict the strength of FRP-confined concrete and corresponding strain for each of the cross section geometry used, circular and square. Further work is required to verify the applicability of the proposed models over a wider range of geometric and material parameters, to improve theirs accuracy (particularly that of the axial strain at peak stress) and to place theirs on a clear mechanical basis. Both additional tests and theoretical investigation are needed.

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